

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3940  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010  
JOURNALIST FOR FOREIGN TRIPS  
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**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is any provision to allow journalists to accompany dignitaries on their foreign visits for coverage purpose;
- (b) if so, the criteria adopted in selection of journalists for the said urpose;
- (c) whether freelance journalists are also allowed to accompany on such foreign visits; and
- (d) if not, the reasons behind such discrimination?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a): Yes.
- (b): Media personnel representing organizations/agencies from different regions and reporting in various official languages, accompany some high Indian dignitaries on their official visits abroad.
- (c): Syndicated journalists and columnists have also traveled on occasions during such official visits abroad.
- (d): Does not arise.